

Sec Clearances
77-3494/4
Intell Results Rept. & clearance
OLC #77-1891

Mr. Kempton B. Jenkins
Assistant Secretary
Congressional Relations
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

11 MAY 1977

Dear Jenks,

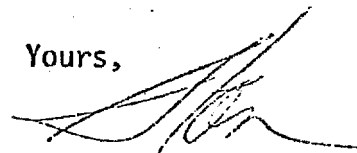
Senator Cranston asked me to grant compartmented security clearances to Bill Jackson of his personal staff. I initially declined, doing so on the grounds that we normally grant such clearances only to staffs of Congressional committees. In a reclama to that decision, the Senator stated that you had agreed to request me to give such clearances to Bill Jackson.

I have gone back and had a personal conversation with the Senator and explained my position. It would be difficult to draw a line between Bill Jackson and the 534 other personal assistants to Members of Congress. I have also explained that I don't believe compartmented intelligence is essential to the functioning of most personnel who are not intimately involved in the detailed budget justifications of our methods of collecting intelligence. I further offered to make special efforts on any occasion which Bill Jackson felt he was being hampered by a lack of access to compartmented information, and if such instances arose frequently enough, I would consider reversing my decision.

I am increasingly concerned at the proliferation of individuals who have access to compartmented information, not only because of the potential for leaks, but because of the general degradation of respect for security clearances that it generates. I believe that we must tighten up considerably on the large numbers of people who are authorized access to compartmented information, but that on the other hand, we must move more information obtained by compartmented means into lower security classifications and even to unclassified status. I would most appreciate your cooperation in moving in these directions.

Hope we can get in a tennis game one of these days. In the meantime, all the best.

Yours,



STANSFIELD TURNER

DCI/ST/kgf/10 May 1977

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee, 1 - OLC, 1 - ER, 1 - O/DCI